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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO RUEHRA/AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE 2616
RUDKKR/AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE 2246
INFO RUFHRS/AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE 0984
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 309962

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PEPR, MILI, AG, US
SUBJECT: U.S. DECISION TO LICENSE SECOND C-130 SALE TO
ALGERIA

1. (S) ENTIRE TEXT.

2. THE SECRETARY HAS DECIDED TO LICENSE THE COMMERCIAL
SALE OF A SECOND GROUP OF EIGHT C-130'S TO ALGERIA. HE
HAS ALSO DIRECTED THAT, PRIOR TO NOTIFYING THE ALGERIANS
AND LOCKHEED, WE INFORM THE MOROCCAN AND TUNISIAN GOVERN-
MENTS ON A CONFIDENTIAL BASIS AND, WITHOUT GIVING THEM A
VETO, TAKE THEIR VIEWS INTO ACCOUNT. WE WILL ALSO CONSULT
ON THE HILL.

3. DAS SCHNEIDER BEGAN THE PROCESS NOVEMBER 3 BY CALLING
IN SEPARATELY THE AMBASSADORS OF TUNISIA AND MOROCCO TO
INFORM THEM OF OUR DECISION. SCHNEIDER NOTED THAT THIS
WAS THE SECOND SUCH SALE: A CONTRACT FOR SIX C-130'S WAS
APPROVED LAST YEAR. HE SAID WE WANTED OUR FRIENDS IN THE
AREA TO BE AWARE OF THE DECISION IN ADVANCE, THAT WE WOULD
INFORM THE CONGRESS ON THE AFTERNOON OF NOVEMBER 4 AND
THE ALGERIANS NOVEMBER 5. HE NOTED THAT THE SAME
RESTRICTIONS WOULD APPLY AS IN THE FIRST SALE. THE
PLANES CAN BE USED ONLY FOR DEFENSE AND, BY EXPLICIT
AGREEMENT, THEY CANNOT BE USED IN CONNECTION WITH THE
WESTERN SAHARA OR TO SUPPORT THE POLISARIO. WE BELIEVE
THAT THE PRESENT SALE IS MODEST, BUT CAN ULTIMATELY
CONTRIBUTE TO BETTER US-ALGERIAN RELATIONS AND HELP
PROCESS OF REDUCING ALGERIAN DEPENDENCE ON THE SOVIETS.
WE BELIEVED WE SHARED THESE GOALS WITH OUR FRIENDS IN
THE AREA.

4. TUNISIAN AMBASSADOR BEN YAHIA SAID THAT TUNISIA
FAVORS THE DEVELOPMENT OF STRONGER US-ALGERIAN TIES.
IF DECISIONS SUCH AS THIS WILL BRING ALGERIA CLOSER TO
THE WEST, THIS IS WHAT BOTH THE US AND TUNISIA WANT.
HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR US CONSIDERATION OF THE
SECURITY CONCERN OF NEIGHBORING PRO-WESTERN STATES
AND FOR BEING INFORMED IN ADVANCE. HE RECALLED THAT
THERE HAD BEEN A FEW CASES OF ALGERIAN COOPERATION WITH
LIBYAN SUBVERSION EFFORTS, BUT THAT THE GOT HAD RECEIVED
ASSURANCES FROM ALGERIA THAT IT HAS NO CLAIMS AGAINST
TUNISIA TERRITORY. SCHNEIDER ASSURED HIM THAT THE
END-USE RESTRICTIONS APPLIED TO THE PLANE SALE PRECLUDED

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PAGE 002
TOR: 040206Z NOV 82

NC 9811465

THEIR USE FOR SUCH PURPOSES. BEN YAHIA NOTED THAT IT WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE IF ALGERIA OBTAINED ARMS FROM BOTH THE US AND THE SOVIET UNION AND DID NOT MODIFY ITS POLITICAL RELATIONSHIPS. SCHNEIDER REPLIED THAT

WITH THIS IN MIND THE US HAS BEGUN A POLITICAL DIALOGUE WITH THE ALGERIANS AT THEIR REQUEST. THE GOAL IS TO DEVELOP OUR POLITICAL RELATIONS TO COMPLEMENT THE SOLID ECONOMIC RELATIONS THAT ALREADY EXIST BETWEEN THE US AND ALGERIA. THE US AND TUNISIA AGREE COMPLETELY ON THE UTILITY OF SUCH AN EFFORT.

5. MOROCCAN AMBASSADOR BENGELLOUN TOOK NOTE OF SCHNEIDER'S PRESENTATION. HE SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT THE GOVERNMENT REACTION WOULD BE, BUT BELIEVED THAT THE EXPLANATION WE HAD PRESENTED WAS CONVINCING. MOROCCO WOULD LIKE TO SEE BETTER US-ALGERIAN RELATIONS. HE NOTED THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A LONG TIME, THE ALGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER AND AMBASSADOR HAD VISITED THE MOROCCAN EMBASSY HERE IN CONNECTION WITH THE FEZ DELEGATION VISIT. MOROCCO WOULD WELCOME MORE OPPORTUNITY FOR DISCUSSION WITH ALGERIA-- PERHAPS THE US CAN PLAY A ROLE. BENGELLOUN SAID HE WOULD REPORT OUR DECISION TO RABAT. AFTER A DISCUSSION OF OTHER DEVELOPMENTS, BENGELLOUN REITERATED THAT THE GOM WOULD NOT WANT TO SEE THE C-130'S USED TO SUPPORT THE POLISARIO. SCHNEIDER REPLIED THAT WE HAVE AND WILL DISCUSS AGAIN WITH THE ALGERIANS THE RESTRICTIONS THAT APPLY AND THAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR THEIR COMPLIANCE.

5. ACTION ADDRESSEES NEED TAKE NO FURTHER ACTION BUT SHOULD, OF COURSE, REPORT ANY FURTHER REACTION WHICH MAY BE VOLUNTEERED. ALGIERS SHOULD NOT, REPEAT NOT DISCUSS THE SALE WITH THE GOA UNTIL SPECIFICALLY INSTRUCTED TO DO SO.

SHULTZ

END OF MESSAGE

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